

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 EC BRU 00895 281919Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 00895

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, CSCE
SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION-COREPER ROLE IN CSCE FOLLOW-UP

REF: (A) 76 EC BRUSSELS 12475, (B) 76 EC BRUSSELS 10579,
(C) 76 STATE 310536, (D) 76 STATE 293581

1. DURING SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIEDRICH KLEIN, EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF RELATIONS WITH STATE-TRADING COUNTRIES, AND WITH UK PERM DEL OFFICER PATRICK FAIRWEATHER, MISSION OFFICERS WERE BRIEFED ON CURRENT STATE OF EC PLANNING FOR BELGRADE CONFERENCE, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE ROLE OF THE EC COMMISSION AND THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) IN BRUSSELS. BOTH NOTED THAT EC REVIEW OF HELSINKI IMPLEMENTATION IS BEING CONDUCTED IN A JOINT POLITICAL COOPERATION/COREPER FRAMEWORK, WITH THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR BASKETS 1 AND 3, AND THE BRUSSELS-BASED COREPER (CUM COMMISSION) DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN BASKET 2 REVIEW. WORK ON BASKET 2, WE WERE TOLD, IS JUST GETTING UNDER WAY, AND THE COMMISSION AND THE MEMBER STATES WILL DIVIDE RESPONSIBILITY FOR REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL BASKET 2 CATE-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 EC BRU 00895 281919Z

GORIES. COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR THIS DIVISION OF LABOR ARE NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COREPER WORKING GROUP HEADED BY FAIRWEATHER. KLEIN TOLD US HE EXPECTS THE COMMISSION WILL BE RESPONSIBLE, AT A MINIMUM, FOR REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASKET 2 PREAMBLE AND OF THE COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE MEASURES.

3. IN REVIEWING GENERAL U.S. APPROACH TO BELGRADE WITH KLEIN, HE EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH CONCEPT THAT BELGRADE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON FINAL ACT IMPLEMENTATION AND ONLY DEAL WITH A LIMITED NUMBER OF NEW PROPOSALS. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO NEW "FINAL DOCUMENT" AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE BELGRADE MEETING AND SUGGESTED THAT ANY AGREEMENTS REACHED MIGHT BE HANDLED INFORMALLY BY PROCES-VERBALE. KLEIN SAID HE AGREED EMPHATICALLY THAT THE CONCEPT OF REGULARIZED REVIEW CONFERENCES SHOULD BE AVOIDED AND THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD PREFER NO MORE THAN A SINGLE FOLLOW-ON MEETING TO BELGRADE, WHICH SHOULD BE HELD NO SOONER THAN TWO YEARS AFTER.

4. BREZHNEV PROPOSALS

FAIRWEATHER TOLD US THAT HIS WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE BREZHNEV PROPOSALS FOR PAN-EUROPEAN CONFERENCES ON ENERGY, TRANSPORTATION, AND THE ENVIRONMENT HAD BEEN NEGATIVE. HE SAID THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS HAD BEEN QUALIFIED, HOWEVER, BY AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT PURELY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS MIGHT PROMPT THE NINE TO AGREE TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSALS. THE RECOMMENDATIONS CALL, IN SUCH A CASE, FOR CONFINING ALL DISCUSSION TO THE ECE FORUM. KLEIN TOLD US EARLIER THAT THE WORKING GROUP EXPERTS HAD TAKEN AN ESPECIALLY STRONG POSITION AGAINST THE ENERGY CONFERENCE PROPOSAL, IN VIEW OF SOVIET REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. HE SAID THE ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE HAD BEEN CONSIDERED THE LEAST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 EC BRU 00895 281919Z

OBJECTIONALE.

5. FAIRWEATHER SAID THAT THE FRENCH MAINTAIN A RESERVE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH WERE PRESENTED TO THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS JANUARY 26. THE FRENCH APPARENTLY OBJECT TO THE WORKING GROUP'S HAVING MADE ANY REFERENCE AT ALL TO POLITICAL QUESTIONS OUTSIDE OF EC COMPETENCE; BUT FAIRWEATHER EXPRESSED HOPE THIS RESERVE WOULD BE DROPPED NOW THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE'S HANDS.

6. DURING OUR DISCUSSION WITH KLEIN, WE CONVEYED US VIEWS ON THE BREZHNEV PROPOSALS PER REFTELS C AND D, AND HE INDICATED THE EC COMMISSION WAS CERTAINLY IN BASIC AGREEMENT WITH US. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, AGAINST ADOPTING ANY POSTURE WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO SOLICIT FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE SOVIETS ON THE PROPOSALS, SINCE TO DO SO MIGHT CONVEY TO THE SOVIETS A SIGNAL OF INTEREST WE ACTUALLY WISH TO AVOID.

7. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION AT BELGRADE

FAIRWEATHER TOLD US THAT COREPER RECEIVED ON JANUARY 28 THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ISSUE OF EC REPRESENTATION AT BELGRADE. ACCORDING TO FAIRWEATHER, THE COMMISSION HAS REJECTED THE HELSINKI/GENEVA FORMULA (I.E. COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE SEATED AS PART OF THE DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATE HOLDING THE EC PRESIDENCY) AND HAS CALLED FOR A SEPARATE COMMUNITY SEAT. HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE COMPOSITION AND CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DELEGATION, BUT SAID THE COMMISSION HAD SPECIFIED THE DELEGATION SHOULD TAKE PART ONLY IN DEBATE INVOLVING MATTERS OF COMMUNITY COMPETENCE (PRIMARILY BASKET 2 TRADE ISSUES). FAIRWEATHER PREDICTED A NEGATIVE REACTION TO THESE PROPOSALS BY THE MEMBER STATES. BEYOND RAISING SUCH ISSUES AS WHETHER OR NOT CEMA SHOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 EC BRU 00895 281919Z

ALSO BE SEATED, HE COMMENTED THAT THE COMMISSION'S FORMULA WOULD DRAW CONFERENCE ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE MORE IMPORTANT DISCUSSION OF BASKET 1 AND 3 QUESTIONS.

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